

HSAC Minutes  
February 4, 2015

I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – G. Speed

The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm. Roundtable introductions followed.

Members Present:

Greg Speed – Provider  
George Plewa – Provider  
Christa Weis – Provider  
Marilou Rochford – Consumer Advocate  
Sarah Matthews – Provider  
Donna Groome – Provider  
Katie Fal detta – Provider  
Kristen Bixby – Provider  
Bill Desmond – Member-at-Large  
Barry Keefe – Member-at-Large  
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large  
Nelson Amey – Member-at-Large

Members Excused:

John Roy  
Sara Maloney  
John McDonald  
Rose Kuprianov  
Kristine Gabor  
Steve O'Connor  
Wayne Whelan

Interested Persons:

Kevin Tomasello – DCP&P  
Michele Grainger – Ocean Inc.  
Bobbi Jo Taylor – BSS  
Eric Rickards – BSS  
Joe Sittineri – JCDT&OC  
Rich Borska – DCP&P  
Cassandra Shellhorn – CCYC  
Colleen Hendrickson – DVRS  
Matt Remington – Covenant House  
John Fuqua – Complete Care Health Network  
Deborah Brasch – Caring for Kids  
Candace Titanski – DVRS Manager  
Barbara Makoski – CMCSSD  
Pat Devaney – Human Services Administrator  
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Staff

II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – G. Speed

Minutes from the 12/3/14 meeting were emailed to voting members and hard copies were distributed at the meeting. B. Keefe motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and D. Groome seconded. Motion carried. Once approved by the Council, meeting minutes are posted on the Cape May County website.

III. Administrator's Report – P. Devaney

P. Devaney reported that this is the time of year when the CDHS is very busy with contracting both the closing out of 2014 and the implementation of 2015. The County budget process is moving forward with some good news in that the County will receive Peer Grouping (PG) funds for the full year of CY 2015. There had been rumors that counties still receiving PG dollars would only receive 6 months worth of funding. As has been reported, the merger between the Cape May County CEAS-CoC and the Southern New Jersey CoC (SNJCoC) is moving forward. The MOU has been signed by both the Cape May and Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders (CPAC, the lead agency for the SNJCoC is located in Camden County). The MOU has been forwarded to HUD for final approval. DMHAS has announced a new website for 2015. The website consolidates information from the former Division of Addiction

Services and Division of Mental Health Services websites into one uniform site. The new website address is as follows:<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/home>. Copies of the announcement regarding the website change are in the pass around folder for those interested. The County is in the process of updating its Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan. One of the components to the planning process includes collecting surveys from as many County residents as possible. The HSAC office has been asked to assist in survey dissemination. Copies of the survey are available today. Agencies, individuals, consumers and staff are encouraged to complete a survey. The survey cutoff date is 2/20/15. With the tax season upon us, the HSAC and the CDHS are asking agencies to assist in disseminating information about the EITC to their clientele. Informational flyers on the EITC are available today for distribution. Lastly, P. Devaney announced that OCEAN, Inc. as the new CAP agency for the County is implementing a new emergency rental assistance program. The contact person for the new program is Ingrid Febres. She can be reached at (848) 240-4570. Ms. Febres will be invited to give a presentation on the new program at the March HSAC meeting. G. Speed then referenced #12 of the Executive Committee minutes regarding a centralized intake for addiction services. He stated that he just participated in a conference call on the proposed new system of care for addiction services. Basically, Rutgers United Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) will serve as the interim managing entity and as such will man the call center 24/7. Those seeking care will call the 800# and be given an interview/assessment. They will then be referred to 3 local providers in their community for a more detailed assessment. The local provider will send the results of the assessment to UBHC who will then approve the level of care and the # of sessions the individual is to receive. Drug Court and South Jersey Initiative participants are exempt from the process. The new process is a centralized intake only; it does not provide additional capacity for services. The system is slated to begin 7/1/15. G. Speed will update Council with additional information on this proposed new system as it becomes available.

#### IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS –

Copies of all NJ DHS announcements and press releases received since the December meeting have been placed in the pass around folder for review (with the exception of the Department's Weekly Reports which are now being forwarded to all HSAC members and those on the HSAC Interested Persons list via email).

- DCF – K. Tomasello

K. Tomasello reported the following statistics with regard to the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of January 2015: 327 total cases, (this = 617 active children with 151 children in placement). The cases breakdown into the following categories: 63 investigation cases, 172 in-home service cases and 92 placement cases (=327 cases). In addition, there were 79 intakes (18 for child welfare and 61 for child protection). No adoptions were finalized in January. K. Tomasello also distributed a written 2014 summary report which detailed Cape May Local Office statistics by month.

#### V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – G. Speed

Minutes from the 1/28/15 meeting were distributed. G. Speed referenced #7 of the minutes regarding the revision to the HSAC bylaws to state that a vote to adopt the new bylaws will take place at the next Council meeting. G. Speed then referenced #13 of the minutes regarding the declaration of a State of Emergency (SoE) and the impact on the provision of services. He explained that the blizzard forecasted for last week (storm never materialized) and the Governor's subsequent declaration of a SoE and travel ban caused him to close his agency for the day even though local weather and roads were fine. It was noted that the travel ban for CMC was lifted at 7:30am. B. Keefe stated that it was his understanding that agencies with residential facilities were exempt for travel bans. S. Matthews added that provider agencies can enroll their agency and essential staff with the state police (responsibility of provider to register) so that they may travel during a SoE/travel ban. G. Speed responded that while all of this information is very helpful, he would still like the local Office of Emergency Management to have more input into SoE/travel ban issues as it seems to make much more sense for this to be a county/municipal decision. G. Speed suggested that the HSAC write a letter to Freeholder Gabor offering to support and assist in any efforts that the County Freeholders or the Office of Emergency Management plans to undertake to advocate for more local (county, municipal) control of SoE/travel ban issuances. It was the consensus of those present to write the letter.

- b. Services for the Disabled Committee – B. Makoski

The committee meeting scheduled for 12/9/14 was cancelled. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 3/9/15.

- c. Program Review Committee – N. Amey

No Report.

- d. WFNJ – WTW – E. Rickards

E. Rickards reported that the overall #'s of those coming into the BSS is down. In January of 2014 the agency was averaging 215 people per day with a number of those coming to the agency for Affordable Care Act information/applications. The average for January 2015 has decreased and has returned to 2013 numbers. E. Rickards concluded by stating that the number of those receiving food stamps remains high.

e. CEAS-CoC – E. Rickards

Written reports detailing Emergency Assistance (EA) program statistics for November and December 2014 were distributed. E. Rickards noted that the reports indicate that the number of those receiving GA is decreasing. In addition, minutes from the 12/9/14 and 1/13/15 CEAS-CoC meetings were also distributed. S. Hand reported that the annual Point-In-Time count is being conducted today as it was postponed from last week due to the forecasted inclement weather.

f. CIACC – P. Devaney

Minutes from the 1/13/15 CIACC meeting were distributed. P. Devaney highlighted the following from the minutes: the Functional Family Therapy program has been very successful and is now fully subscribed. Mechanisms to expand the program including the use of JJC accrual funds are being investigated and the 12/12/14 training session entitled "Integrating Motivational Skills with Pharmacology for Opiod and Alcohol" was well attended and received extremely positive feedback.

g. Membership – J. Kunec

J. Kunec presented the Committee's written membership report which lists the Committee's recommendations for CY 2015 HSAC officers. J. Kunec reported that the Membership Committee is asking that the following slate of officers for CY 2015 recommended by the Committee at the 12/3/14 Council meeting be submitted for a vote: Greg Speed – Chairperson, Bill Desmond – Vice Chairperson, Judy Kunec – Secretary, Membership Chairperson, Nelson Amey – Program Review Chairperson, Donna Groome – Director and Wayne Whelan – Director. G. Speed opened the floor to additional nominations. There were none. D. Groome made a motion to close the nominations and B. Keefe seconded. Motion carried. K. Fal detta motioned to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Membership Committee and C. Weis seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made by K. Bixby and seconded by B. Desmond to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

## VI. Liaison Reports

a. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council – D. Groome

D. Groome began her report by announcing that she had flyers for the CMC Displaced Homemaker program for those interested. The Department is working through the Federal Financial Participation program to draw down federal funds for services that are being provided. This is the 1st time the Department is applying for federal reimbursement and while there is a learning curve to the process, there is the potential to bring down substantial funding as the qualifying activities being conducted by the Department have increased significantly. With regard to Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), the transition to MLTSS from traditional Medicaid was effective 7/1/14. The Department is monitoring the impact on clients. An issue with home care has been identified in that only those staff with a personal care attendant certification will be able to provide hands on personal care as of 7/31/15. In order for staff to be certified, agencies must also undergo a certification process which can be quite costly and has the potential to put smaller agencies out of business. There are only 2 existing PCA providers that serve CMC clients and they have indicated that finding an aide for this area is next to impossible. Additionally, PL2014 c.29 will require that all agencies that provide companion care will need to be PCA certified by 3/2016 to be in compliance. The Department is in the process of surveying local provider agencies in order to gauge the impact of this new requirement on available services. Once data is collected, the Department will work with the CMC Board of Chosen Freeholders and Senator Van Drew's office to take appropriate action. With regard to SSBG Sandy funding, the Department has approximately \$30,000 to assist individuals with construction issues. The Department has requested an additional \$50,000 for a total of \$80,000 (no word yet on the request). Funds are available until September 2015. The Department is getting ready to begin work on the 2016 Area Plan Grant. This first step will be to implement the needs assessment process which will include surveys and focus groups. D. Groome noted that vacancies have been filled and the Department is fully staffed. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) representatives are available to help those that are income eligible with tax preparation. For availability and income eligibility information, please call the Department directly at 886-2784. D. Groome concluded by announcing that the annual Senior Jamboree will be held on 5/7 and the Senior Art Show will be held on 6/3/15.

b. WIB – G. Plewa

G. Plewa reported that the WIB was successful in lobbying the US Department of Labor for additional funding (\$29 million). Funding will primarily be used to serve those laid off from casino employment. With regard to youth

programs, G. Plewa has asked the WIB for permission to concentrate/target those schools in the County with the highest dropout rate. More information on the WIB will be available next month as the WIB meets at the end of this month. E. Rickards stated that the additional funding received by the WIB will be able to be used to help all those who were impacted by the casino closings such as linen suppliers, restaurant staff/suppliers, etc. not just those who worked for the casinos directly. G. Plewa concluded by stating that the new WIB audit begins 7/1 and there is a proposal to flip youth funding. Currently, 75% of funding for youth is spent on in-school programs and 25% on out of school programs. The proposal would reverse this allocation. G. Plewa is asserting the position that this would be detrimental to youth programs in general as out of school youth are the most difficult to find and serve. He will update Council on this proposal as more information becomes available.

## VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

## VIII. New Business

1. C. Weis introduced Cassandra Shellhorn to Council. C. Shellhorn is the new coordinator of the County Council for Young Children. The Council will be administered by Quality Care Resource and Referral Agency. C. Shellhorn stated that the Councils are a statewide initiative with one in each of the 21 counties. While the CMC Council is in the developmental stages, the goal is to develop strong partnerships among all those working with and for families and young children.

2. C. Hendrickson introduced Candace Titanski to Council. C. Titanski is the new DVRS manager for Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

## IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.